

1. A method for providing driver-independent, printer-independent page manipulation options in a printing system, said method comprising:
- 5       creating a spool data file;  
      creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file from said spool data file;  
      allowing manipulation of said PISF index file to effect document page manipulation options; and  
      accessing said PISF index file to execute a print job.
- 10   2. The method of claim 1 wherein said spool data file is a Microsoft Windows Job Description File.
- 15   3. The method of claim 1 wherein said manipulation comprises changing a print job to a format selected from the group consisting of booklet, Nup, reverse order, duplex, tablet, and PrintClub.
- 20   4. The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file comprises print job commands, page commands and page data.
- 25   5. The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file provides access to at least one Enhanced Metafile (EMF) file.
- 30   6. The method of claim 1 wherein said PISF index file provides access to at least one raw format file.
- 35   7. The method of claim 1 wherein said manipulation of said PISF index file comprises changing the order of document pages.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said manipulation of said PISF index file comprises changing the scale and placement of document pages.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein said manipulation of said PISF index file comprises changing collation options.

10. A method for providing document formatting options in a printing system, said method comprising:

creating a Page-Independent Spool File (PISF) index file;  
manipulating said PISF index file to effect document formatting options;  
and  
accessing said manipulated PISF index file to execute a print job.

11. The method of claim 12 wherein said creating, said manipulating and said accessing are accomplished with a print processor.

12. The method of claim 12 wherein said creating, said manipulating and said accessing are accomplished through a spooler.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said creating, said manipulating and said accessing are accomplished through a print assistant between a driver and a printer.

14. A method for adding document formatting capability to a printing system, said method comprising:

initiating a print job for a document;  
creating a PISF index file;

modifying said PISF index file, from said print processor, to make said print job conform to said user input; and  
accessing said PISF index file, from said print processor, to obtain document formatting information for printing.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a print processor.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a spooler.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein said PISF index file is produced by a print system component in a print system between a driver and a printer.

18. A printing system with driver-independent, printer-independent document formatting, said system comprising:

- 5                   a print processor comprising:  
                    an indexer for creating a page-independent index file;  
                    a modifier for modifying said index file to effect document  
                    formatting options; and  
10                   a reader for accessing said manipulated index file to execute a  
                    modified print job.

19. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for driver-independent,  
printer-independent document formatting, said instructions comprising the acts of:  
15                   creating a page-independent index file;  
                    manipulating said index file to effect document formatting options; and  
                    accessing said manipulated index file to execute a print job.

20                  20. A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having  
                    the function of driver-independent, printer-independent document formatting, said  
                    signal comprising instructions for:  
                    creating a page-independent index file;  
25                   manipulating said index file to effect document formatting options; and  
                    accessing said manipulated index file to execute a print job.